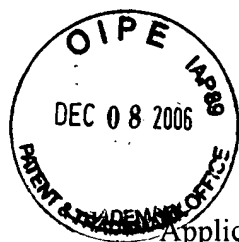


Date of Deposit: December 8, 2006



Attorney Docket No. 27585-029

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas P. Hager et al.
Serial No.: 10/611,513
Filed: July 1, 2003
For: LOW COST, HIGH PERFORMANCE, WATER-SWELLABLE
REINFORCEMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS CABLE

Examiner: Jinhee J. Lee
Art Unit: 2831

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Sir:

Enclosed herewith for filing in the above-identified patent application please find the following listed items.

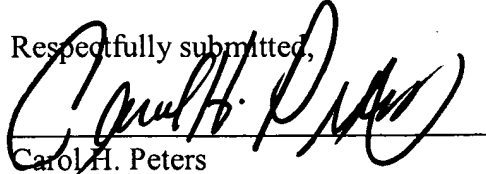
Transmitted herewith for filing in the present application are the following documents:

- (1) ISSUE FEE TRANSMITTAL LETTER;
- (2) APPLICANTS' COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE;
- (3) RESPONSE TO NOTICE REGARDING DRAWINGS AND LETTER TO OFFICIAL DRAFTSMAN;
- (4) SIX (6) SHEETS OF FORMAL "REPLACEMENT SHEET" DRAWINGS - INCLUDING FIGS. 1-10;
- (5) CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1730 TO COVER THE LARGE ENTITY REQUISITE FEES (PATENT ISSUE FEE - \$1400; PUBLICAITON FEE - \$300; AND TEN EXTRA COPIES OF THE ISSUED PATENT - \$30); AND
- (6) RETURN POSTCARD.

Should any of the items identified above be missing from this submission, the Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 617-348-4914.

If the amount of the enclosed check is insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the balance required, or any overpayment, to the deposit account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 50-0311, referencing Attorney Docket No. 27585-029. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is provided for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol H. Peters

Registration No. 45,010

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS
GLOVSKY and POPEO, P.C.

Attorneys for Applicant(s)

One Financial Center

Boston, MA 02111

Telephone: 617/348-4914

Facsimile: 617/542-2241

email: cpeters@mintz.com

Date: December 8, 2006



Express Mail Label No. EV 978 769 918 US

Date of Deposit: December 8, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 27585-029

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas P. Hager et al.
Serial No.: 10/611,513
Filed: July 1, 2003
For: LOW COST, HIGH PERFORMANCE, WATER-SWELLABLE
REINFORCEMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS CABLE

Examiner: Jinhee J. Lee
Art Unit: 2831

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPLICANTS' COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-19. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Notice of Allowability. Applicants assert that the claims may contain one or more features mentioned or not mentioned by the Examiner that independently, or when combined, may be sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more of the claims.

Applicants reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise present any such reasons for allowance as may be appropriate concerning the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol H. Peters

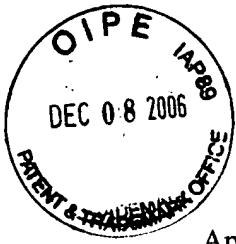
Registration No. 45,010
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS
GLOVSKY and POPEO, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)
One Financial Center
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone: 617/348-4914
Facsimile: 617/542-2241
email: cpeters@mintz.com

Date: December 8, 2006

Date of Deposit: December 8, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 27585-029

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: Thomas P. Hager et al.
Serial No.: 10/611,513
Filed: July 1, 2003
For: LOW COST, HIGH PERFORMANCE, WATER-SWELLABLE
REINFORCEMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS CABLE

Examiner: Jinhee J. Lee
Art Unit: 2831

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO NOTICE REGARDING DRAWINGS AND
LETTER OF OFFICIAL DRAFTSMAN

Sir:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, Applicants submit herewith six (6) sheets of formal "Replacement Sheet" drawings, including Figures 1-10. The formal "Replacement Sheet" drawings are submitted in response to the Notice Regarding Drawings mailed November 15, 2006, and are also submitted in conjunction with the patent issue fee for consideration for publication of the allowed patent.

The cross hatching used to illustrate certain materials in the cross-sectional views, namely, in the cross-sectional views illustrated in Figures 1-3, 5-7, and 10, has been amended in conformance with the telephone interview between Examiner Lee and the undersigned attorney on Wednesday, November 29, 2006 regarding the cross hatching required for the figures in copending parent patent application Serial No. 10/246,007. The instant application is a continuation-in-part application of parent application Serial No. 10/246,007. Application Serial No. 10/246,007 includes figures that require the same cross hatching as in the present application.

During the telephone interview with Examiner Lee concerning the cross hatching for the figures in application Serial No. 10/245,007, Examiner Lee agreed with the

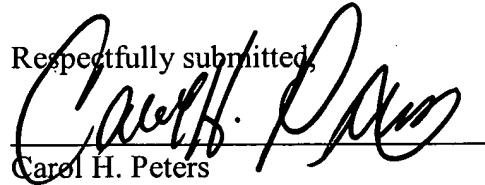
undersigned attorney that with respect to Figures 1-3 and 5-7 of the parent application Serial No. 10/245,007, the insulating materials of the illustrated reinforcement member should be depicted with cross hatching including a thick line then a thin line, and non-conducting glass fibers of the reinforcement member should be depicted with cross hatching including a solid line then a dashed line. Applying this cross hatching to the Figures of the present application, the insulating material of the reinforcement member identified with reference numerals 36 and 38 in Figures 1-3 and identified with reference numerals 78 and 80 in Figures 5-7 should be depicted with cross hatching including a thick line then a thin line. Further, the non-conducting glass fibers (reinforcing glass fibers) of the reinforcement member identified with reference numerals 32 and 34 in Figures 1-3 and identified with reference numerals in 70 and 72 in Figures 5-7 should be depicted with cross hatching including a solid line then a dashed line.

With respect to Figure 10, the drawing illustrates a cable (100) including conducting optical fibers (106), fiber glass reinforced strengthening rods (112), a jacket (110), and a reinforcement member (102) according to the invention. Applying the cross hatching Examiner Lee and the undersigned attorney agreed to, the reinforcement member (102) according to the invention is depicted with the cross hatching discussed above. In addition, the conducting optical fibers (106) are depicted with cross hatching including solid lines. The fiber glass reinforced strengthening rods (112) including insulating material and non-conducting reinforcing glass fibers are depicted with cross hatching including a thick line then a thin line, and a solid line then a dashed line, respectively. Further, the insulating jacket is depicted with cross hatching including a thick line then a thin line.

Applicants respectfully submit the formal drawings depict the illustrations with the proper cross hatching in accordance with MPEP §608.02, and in accordance with the discussion with Examiner Lee.

Should Examiner Lee or the Office have any questions concerning this response and the enclosed formal drawings, Examiner Lee and the Office are invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol H. Peters

Registration No. 45,010
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS
GLOVSKY and POPEO, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)
One Financial Center
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone: 617/348-4914
Facsimile: 617/542-2241
email: cpeters@mintz.com

Date: December 8, 2006

TRA 2230597v.1